

Grand Assembly of Freemasons,
FOR THE
UNION OF THE TWO GRAND LODGES OF ENGLAND,
ON
ST. JOHN'S DAY, 27TH DECEMBER, 1813.

The important event of the re-union of Ancient Freemasons of England, after a long separation, took place, with great solemnity, this day.

The following order of proceedings, which had been previously settled, was strictly observed:—

Freemasons' Hall having been fitted up agreeably to a plan and drawing for the occasion, and the whole House tiled from the outer porch;

The platform on the East was reserved for the Grand Masters, Grand Officers, and Visitors.

The Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters of the several Lodges, who had been previously re-obligated and certified by the LODGE OF RECONCILIATION, and provided with tickets signed and countersigned by the two Secretaries thereof, were arranged on the two sides in the following manner; that is to say—

The Masters were placed in the front.

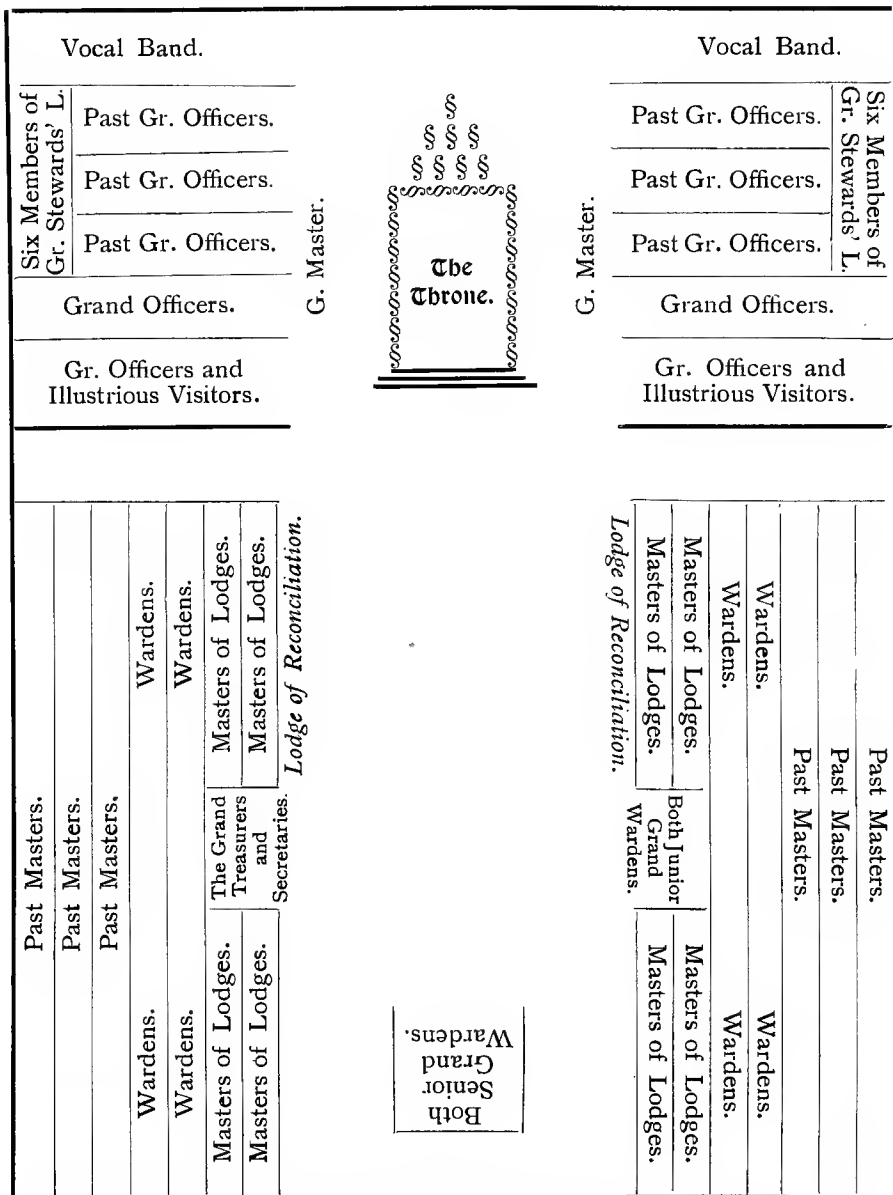
The Wardens on benches behind.

The Past Masters on rising benches behind them.

And the Lodges were ranked so that the two Fraternities were completely intermixed.

The Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters, all drest in black (regimentals excepted), with their respective Insignia, and in white aprons and gloves, took their places by eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

*Plan of Freemasons' Hall, on the occasion of the Grand Assembly of Masons, for the Union of the Two Grand Lodges of England, Dec. 27, 1813.**



*From Preston's "Illustrations of Masonry," 1861 Ed. (J. T. T., Ed. 1913.)

The Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Officers, and distinguished Visitors of the two Fraternities, assembled in two adjoining rooms, in which they opened two Grand Lodges, each according to its peculiar solemnities, and the grand Procession moved towards the Hall of Assembly, in the following order:—

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|---|---|
| Grand Usher, with his Staff. | Grand Usher, with his Staff. |
| The Duke of Kent's Band of Music, fifteen in number, all Masons, three and three. | |
| Two Grand Stewards. | Two Grand Stewards. |
| A Cornucopia, borne by a Master Mason. | A Cornucopia, borne by a Master Mason. |
| Two Grand Stewards. | Two Grand Stewards. |
| Two golden Ewers, by two Master Masons. | Two golden Ewers, by two Master Masons. |
| The Nine worthy and expert Masons, forming The Lodge of Reconciliation, in single file, rank opposite to rank, with the Emblems of Masonry. | The Nine worthy and expert Masons, forming The Lodge of Reconciliation, in single file, rank opposite to rank, with the Emblems of Masonry. |
| The Grand Secretary, bearing the book of Constitutions, and Great Seal. | The Grand Secretary, bearing the book of Constitutions, and Great Seal. |
| The Grand Treasurer, with the golden Key. | The Grand Treasurer, with the golden Key. |
| The Corinthian Light. | The Corinthian Light. |
| The Pillar of the Junior Grand Warden, on a pedestal. | The Pillar of the Junior Grand Warden, on a pedestal. |
| The Junior Grand Warden, with his Gavel. | The Junior Grand Warden, with his Gavel. |
| The Deputy Grand Chaplain, with the Holy Bible. | |
| The Grand Chaplain. | The Grand Chaplain, with the Holy Bible. |
| Past Grand Wardens. | Past Grand Wardens. |
| | Provincial Grand Masters, with their Gavels. |
| The Doric Light. | The Doric Light. |
| The Pillar of the Senior Grand Warden, on a pedestal. | The Pillar of the Senior Grand Warden, on a pedestal. |
| The Senior Grand Warden, with his Gavel. | The Senior Grand Warden, with his Gavel. |
| Two Past Deputy Grand Masters. | |
| The Deputy Grand Master. | The Acting Deputy Grand Master. |
| His Excellency the Count de LAGARDJE, Grand Master of the First Lodge of the North, Visitor. | |
| The Royal Banner. | |
| The Ionic Light. | The Ionic Light. |
| The Grand Sword Bearer. | The Grand Sword Bearer. |
| THE GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND, | THE GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND, |
| H. R. H. THE DUKE OF KENT, | H. R. H. THE DUKE OF SUSSEX, |
| with the Act of Union, in duplicate. | with the Act of Union, in duplicate. |
| Two Grand Stewards. | Two Grand Stewards. |
| Grand Tyler. | Grand Tyler. |

On entering the Hall, the Procession advanced to the Throne, and opened and faced each other, the music playing a march composed for the occasion by Brother Kelly.

The two Grand Masters then proceeded up the centre, followed by the Grand Master, Visitors, the Deputy Grand Master, &c., all in the order reversed, those the most advanced, returning in single file, to turn, re-advance, and take their places. The music ranging themselves in the gallery over the throne. The Brothers bearing the Cornucopias, Vases, &c. placing themselves in the seats assigned them.

The two Grand Masters seated themselves, in two equal chairs, on each side the Throne.

The Visiting Grand Master, and other Visitors of distinction, were seated on each side.

The other Grand Officers and Visitors all according to degree.

The Director of the Ceremonies, Sir George Nayler, having proclaimed silence;—

The Rev. Dr. Barry, Grand Chaplain to the Fraternity under the Duke of Kent, commenced the important business of the Assembly with holy prayer, in a most solemn manner.

The Act of Union was then read by the Director of the Ceremonies.

The Rev. Dr. Coghlan, Grand Chaplain to the Fraternity under the Duke of Sussex, proclaimed aloud, after sound of trumpet—

“Hear ye—This is the Act of Union, engrossed, in confirmation of Articles solemnly concluded between the two Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons of England, signed, sealed, and ratified by the two Grand Lodges respectively; by which they are to be hereafter and for ever known and acknowledged by the style and title of **The United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England**. How say you, Brothers, Representatives of the two Fraternities? Do you accept of, ratify, and confirm the same?” To which the Assembly answered—“We do accept, ratify, and confirm the same.” The Grand Chaplain then said—“And may the Great Architect of the Universe make the Union perpetual!” To which all the Assembly replied—“So mote it be.”

The Two Grand Masters and the six Commissioners signed the Instruments and the two Grand Masters then affixed the Great Seals of their respective Grand Lodges to the same.

Dr. Barry, after sound of trumpet, then proclaimed—

“Be it known to all Men, That the Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons of England, is solemnly signed, sealed, ratified, and confirmed, and the two Fraternities are one, to be from henceforth known and acknowledged by the style and title of **The United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England**; and may the great Architect of the Universe make their Union eternal!”

And the Assembly said “AMEN.”

Brother Wesley, who was at the organ, performed a symphony.

The two Grand Masters, with their respective Deputies and Wardens, then advanced to the Ark of the Masonic Covenant, prepared, under the direction of the W. Brother John Soane, Grand Superintendent of the Works, for the edifice of the Union, and in all time to come to be placed before the Throne.

The Grand Masters standing in the East, with their Deputies on the right and left; the Grand Wardens in the West and South.

The square, the plumb, the level, and the mallet, were successively delivered to the Deputy Grand Masters, and by them presented to the two Grand Masters, who severally applied the square to that part of the said Ark which is square, the plumb to the sides of the same, and the level above it in three positions; and lastly, they gave it three knocks with the mallet;

saying, "May the Great Architect of the Universe enable us to uphold the "grand Edifice of Union, of which this Ark of the Covenant is the symbol, "which shall contain within it the instrument of our brotherly love, and "bear upon it the Holy Bible, square, and compass, as the light of our "faith and the rule of our works. May he dispose our hearts to make it "perpetual!" And the Brethren said—"So mote it be."

The two Grand Masters placed the said Act of Union in the interior of the said Ark.

The cornucopia, the wine, and oil, were in like manner presented to the Grand Masters, who, according to ancient rite, poured forth corn, wine, and oil, on the said Ark, saying—"As we pour forth corn, wine, and "oil, on this Ark of the Masonic Covenant, may the bountiful hand of "Heaven ever supply this United Kingdom with abundance of corn, wine, "and oil, with all the necessities and comforts of life; and may He dispose "our hearts to be grateful for all his gifts!" And the Assembly said "AMEN."

The Grand Officers then resumed their places.

A Letter was read from the R. W. Brother Lawrie, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, transmitting Resolutions of that Grand Lodge in answer to the letter of the M. W. the Grand Masters of the two Grand Lodges, announcing to them the happy event of the Union and requesting them to appoint a deputation agreeably to Art. IV of the Act of Union. And it was ordered that these Resolutions be inserted on the minutes of this day.

A Letter was also read from the W. Brother W. F. Graham, Deputy Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, transmitting Resolutions of that Grand Lodge, in answer to a similar communication from their Royal Highnesses the two Grand Masters of the respective Fraternities in England. It was ordered that these Resolutions be entered on the minutes of this day.

In consequence of its having been found impracticable from the shortness of the notice for the sister Grand Lodges, to send deputations to this Assembly according to the urgent request of the two Fraternities, conferences had been held with all the most distinguished Grand Officers and enlightened Masons resident in and near London, in order to establish perfect agreement upon all the essential points of Masonry, according to the Ancient Traditions and general practice of the Craft. The members of the Lodge of Reconciliation accompanied by the Most Worshipful His Excellency Count De Lagardje, Grand Master of the first Lodge of Freemasons in the North, the Most Worshipful Brother Dr. Van Hess, of the Grand Lodge of Hamburgh, and other distinguished Masons, withdrew to an adjoining apartment, where, being congregated and tiled, the result of all the previous conferences was made known.

The Members of the Lodge of Reconciliation, and distinguished Visitors, on their return, proceeded slowly up the centre in double file; and as they approached the two Grand Masters they opened, and the Grand Visitors advanced; when His Excellency the Grand Master of the First Lodge of the North, audibly pronounced that the forms settled and agreed on by the Lodge of Reconciliation were pure and correct.

This being declared, the same was recognised as the forms to be alone observed and practised in the United Grand Lodge, and all the Lodges dependant thereon, until time shall be no more.

The **Holy Bible** spread open, with the square and compass thereon, was laid on the Ark of the Covenant, and the two Grand Chaplains approached the same.

The recognized obligation was then pronounced aloud by the Rev. Dr. Hemming, one of the Masters of the Lodge of Reconciliation, the whole Fraternity repeating the same, with joined hands, and declaring—"By this solemn obligation we vow to abide, and the regulations of Ancient Free-masonry now recognized strictly to observe."

The Assembly then proceeded to constitute one Grand Lodge, in order to which the Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, and other acting Grand Officers of both Fraternities, divested themselves of their Insignia, and Past Grand Officers took the chairs; *viz.* the R. W. Past Deputy Grand Master Perry in the chair as Deputy Grand Master; the R. W. Robert Gill, as Senior Grand Warden, and the R. W. James Deans, as Junior Grand Warden.

His Royal Highness the Duke of KENT, then in an eloquent address, in which he stated that the great view with which he had taken upon himself the important office of Grand Master of the Ancient Fraternity, as declared at the time, was to facilitate the important object of the Union which had been that day so happily concluded. And now it was his intention to propose his illustrious and dear Relative to be the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge, for which high office he was in every respect so eminently qualified.

He therefore proposed His Royal Highness the Duke of SUSSEX to be Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England for the year ensuing. This was seconded by the R. W. the Hon. Washington Shirley, and being put to the vote, was unanimously carried in the affirmative, with masonic honours.

His Royal Highness was placed on the Throne by the Duke of KENT and the Count LAGARDJE, and solemnly obligated. The Grand Installation was fixed for St. George's Day.

Proclamation was then made that the Most Worshipful Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of SUSSEX, Earl of Inverness, Baron Arklow, Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, was elected and enthroned Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England. And His Royal Highness received the homage of the Fraternity.

H. R. Highness the Grand Master previous to nominating his Grand Officers, took occasion to observe that he had written to an exalted and distinguished Nobleman to be his Deputy Grand Master, who being absent from London, and not able to return an answer in time for this meeting, his Royal Highness did not feel himself at liberty to name him, but would take the earliest opportunity of communicating the appointment. He then nominated the following Brothers, to be Grand Officers for the year ensuing.

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| The Rev. SAMUEL HEMMING, D.D. | Senior Grand Warden. |
| ISAAC LINDO, Esq..... | Junior Grand Warden. |
| JOHN DENT, Esq. | Grand Treasurer. |
| WILLIAM MEYRICK, Esq. | Grand Register. |
| WILLIAM HENRY WHITE | Grand Secretaries. |
| EDWARDS HARPER | |
| Rev. EDWARD BARRY, D.D. | Grand Chaplains. |
| Rev. LUCIUS COGHLAN, D.D..... | |
| Rev. HENRY ISAAC KNAPP | Deputy Grand Chaplain. |
| JOHN SOANE, Esq. | Grand Superintendant of the Works. |
| SIR GEORGE NAYLER | Grand Director of the Ceremonies. |
| Captain JONATHAN PARKER | Grand Sword Bearer. |
| SAMUEL WESLEY, Esq. | Grand Organist. |
| BENJAMIN ALDHOUSE | Grand Usher. |
| WILLIAM V. SALMON | Grand Tyler. |

It was then solemnly proclaimed that the two Grand Lodges were incorporated and consolidated into one, and the Grand Master declared it to be open in due form according to ancient usage.

The Grand Lodge was then called to refreshment, and the cup of Brotherly love was delivered by the Junior Grand Warden to the Past Deputy Grand Master, who presented the same to the Grand Master; he drank to the Brethren—"Peace, good will, and Brotherly love, all over the world;"—and he passed it. During its going round, the vocal band performed a song and glee.

The Grand Lodge was re-called to labour, when as the first act of the United Fraternity, his Royal Highness the Duke of KENT, after an elegant introduction, moved—

"1. That an humble Address be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, respectfully to acquaint him with the happy event of the Re-union of the two Grand Lodges of Ancient Freemasons of England—an event which cannot fail to afford lively satisfaction to their Illustrious Patron, who presided for so many years over one of the Fraternities; and under whose auspices Freemasonry has risen to its present flourishing condition. That the unchangeable principles of the Institution are well known to his Royal Highness, and the great benefits and end of this Re-union are to promote the influence and operation of these principles, by more extensively inculcating loyalty and affection to their Sovereign—obedience to the laws and magistrates of their country—and the practice of all the religious and moral duties of life—objects which must ever be dear to his Royal Highness in the Government of his Majesty's United Kingdom. That they humbly hope and pray for the continuance of the sanction of his Royal Highness's fraternal patronage; and that they beg leave to express their fervent gratitude for the many blessings which, in common with all their fellow subjects, they derive from his benignant sway."

"That the great Architect of the Universe may long secure these blessings to them and to their country, by the preservation of his Royal Highness, their Illustrious Patron!"

This motion was seconded by the Honourable Washington Shirley, and passed unanimously, and with Masonic honours. This was followed by a motion—

"2. That this Address, signed by the Grand Master, be presented to his Royal Highness, accompanied by the Past Grand Masters, his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and his Grace the Duke of Athol."

The R. W. Brother Williams, Provincial Grand Master for Dorsetshire, moved—

"3. That the grateful Thanks of this United Grand Lodge be given to the Most Worshipful their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Kent and Duke of Sussex, for the gracious condescension with which they yielded to the prayer of the United Fraternities to take upon themselves the personal conduct of the Negotiation for a Re-union, which is this day, through their zeal, conciliation, and fraternal example, so happily completed. To state to them that the removal of all the slight differences which have so long kept the Brotherhood asunder, will be the means of establishing in the Metropolis of the British Empire one splendid edifice of Ancient Freemasonry, to which the whole Masonic World may confidently look for the maintenance and preservation of the pure principles of the Craft, as handed down to them from time immemorial under the protection of the illustrious branches of the Royal House of Brunswick; and may their Royal Highnesses have the heartfelt satisfaction of long beholding the beneficent effects of their work, in the extension and practice of the virtues of loyalty, morality, brotherly love, and benevolence, which it has been ever the great object of Masonry to inculcate, and of its laws to enforce."

which was also unanimously approved; and this was followed by a Motion, made by John Dent, Esq. Grand Treasurer—

"4. That the Thanks of this Grand Lodge be given to the Right Worshipful James Perry, James Agar, and Thomas Harper, Past Deputy Grand Masters; the Right Worshipful Waller Rodwell Wright, Provincial Grand Master; the Right Worshipful Arthur Tegart and James Deans, Past Grand Wardens; Commissioners appointed by the two Fraternities to assist the illustrious Princes in the said Negotiation—for the zeal, conciliation, and ability with which they discharged their important trust therein."

The following Resolutions were also severally put, and carried in the affirmative unanimously:—

"5. That Books be opened by the Grand Secretaries for the regular entry and record of the proceedings of this United Grand Lodge; and that there be inserted therein, in the first instance, an account of all the Resolutions and Proceedings of both Grand Lodges with respect to the Negotiation for the Union, and of the conferences of the Commissioners thereon; together with a copy of the Articles of Union, and the confirmation thereof; also copies of the Letters written by their Royal Highnesses the two Grand Masters, and Grand Secretaries, addressed to the Most Worshipful the Grand Masters, and Grand Secretaries, of Scotland and Ireland, announcing the same, together with the Resolutions of these Grand Lodges in reply."

"6. That the proceedings of this day be communicated to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, and to express to them that this United Grand Lodge feels with the most sensible satisfaction the Fraternal interest which they take in the important event of this day. To assure them that it

is the anxious desire of this Grand Lodge to maintain the most constant cordial and intimate communion with the Sister Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom, to which end they are persuaded that nothing is so essential as the preservation of one pure and unsullied system founded on the simple and ancient traditions of the craft."

"7. That all the Rules, Orders, Regulations, and Acts of the two Grand Lodges, previous to their consolidation and union, be upheld, maintained, and enforced, by the United Grand Lodge, subject to reconsideration, on the establishment of a new code."

"8. That a New Code of Laws, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations for the Grand Lodge, for private Lodges, and generally for the whole government of the Craft, together with a Book of Constitutions for the same, be made out with all convenient speed, and submitted to the Grand Lodge for their consideration and approval. And that the Commissioners for the Union be empowered to take the necessary steps for the preparation of the same, by engaging such assistance as they may deem expedient thereto."

"9. That there be established Committees, or Boards of Grand Officers, for the administration of Finances, of the Works, of the Schools, and of General Purposes, who shall meet on days to be fixed and announced. And that the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Deputy and Past Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Treasurer, Grand Register, Grand Secretaries, and the Grand Wardens for the time being, together with the other three Commissioners of the Union, be Members of all the Boards; the Senior Grand Officer present to take the chair. That one of the two Grand Secretaries shall attend these Boards, to keep regular minutes of their proceedings, and that the same shall be reported to the Grand Lodge ensuing, for their consideration and approval."

Several other Resolutions were also passed relative to the internal management of the Grand Lodge; and the Most Worshipful Grand Master announced, that in order not to interrupt the course of masonic benevolence, he should direct summonses to be issued to twelve masters of lodges, to assemble on the third Wednesday of every month as a Committee of Benevolence agreeably to Article XIX of the Act of Union, to take into consideration such petitions as might be presented to them for masonic aid. And that it would be expected, in case either of the said twelve masters so summoned, could not attend, he should delegate a Past Master of his own Lodge to represent him, properly clothed in the insignia of master.

And further the Grand Master announced, that he should permit and authorize his own private Seal of Arms to be used on the issuing of Certificates and other documents, until the new great seal should be prepared.

The United Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form, and with solemn prayer.

The Grand Officers and the Brotherhood then repaired to the Crown and Anchor Tavern, where a grand Banquet was provided. His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex in the chair; supported on the right by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and on the left by His Excellency Count De Lagardje, and other distinguished Foreigners. The auspicious day was concluded with the most festive harmony and brotherly love.